Alabama Chess Federation

Alabama Chess Antics

November 1999 – January 2000 $3.00

Newly elected ACF President Richard Ellis awards Barbara Reeder a silver bowl engraved "Chess Mom of the 90's" at the annual ACF business meeting.

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President's Letter

I look on this as another opportunity to be more closely involved in a rewarding and challenging experience in which for the past 40 years of my life I have participated. I appreciate the confidence you have shown in electing me to again serve as President of ACF. To quote an old advertising slogan, "You've come a long way baby" This is true of the ACF. We have the chance to improve on our progress. Certainly, we want to continue the fine record-keeping process that is going on at this time, and we have developed a very strong scholastic program. Further, we have seen remarkable quality and outstanding improvement in the Chess Antics under the control of Rhodes, and he has done a wonderful job; nevertheless, he will be the first to admit that without the participation of the chess community, it would not have been possible. Keep those gains, articles and letters coming!!! Certainly, this is the responsibility of the entire body of chess in Alabama.

Enough of the past. Let's now speak to the future.

(1) A solid effort should be made in, first, the development of new affiliates and the renewal of past affiliates (Talladega, Sylacauga, Anniston, Dothan, Troy, Scottsboro, Gadsden, Decatur, and possibiity others who do not come to mind at this time).

(2) I feel the need for establishment of blue ribbon committees in the areas of scholastic, by-laws, and possibly of budget, and club development. Let's all get involved and let me know where your interests lie so we can fill these committees with those interested in a particular area. If at all possible, I would like to see at least 4 persons, if not more, involved in each of those areas.

(3) We need to direct more interest and attention to the Chess Foundation of Alabama. We have possibly broken through into the business community. I believe that as the business community becomes informed of the needs and activities of the chess community, both scholastic and adult,positive results will be produced.

This letter is loaded with goals and opportunities for the coming year. In order to ensure smooth business meetings in the future, there will be a straightforward agenda for each meeting, hopefully to make the meetings as productive but as short as possible.

In closing, I hope all of you had a happy Thanksgiving, and I wish you the very best of the Holiday Season. To quote Ceasar Lawrence, "LET'S PLAY CHESS!!!!"

Sincerely,

Richard Ellis

P.S. Please try to attend the ACF Business Meeting at the Queen of Hearts, 7:30 AM Sunday, Feb. 13. See Aug - Nov Antics, p. 9.

Southern Congress Open Games *by A.J. Goldsby I*

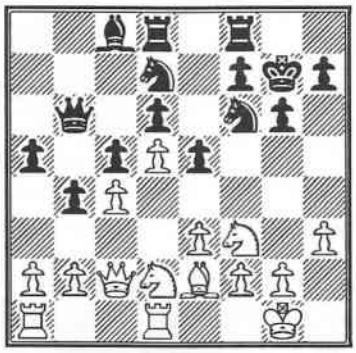
My first opponent was Senior and FIDE Master Stephen Muhammad. I'm sure he felt he had to win at all costs – the "higher rated player complex". Many times I have been the higher rated player, and the thinking that I had to win at all costs has distorted my judgement. You try risky things. You back away from exchanges. And by the time that you realize, "Hey, I need to think about saving the draw here", it's often too late.

30th Southern Congress Open – Atlanta, 4/17/99 SD/75 – Round 1

Stephen Muhammad(2430) vs. A.J. Goldsby I (2200)

1. d4	**Nf6**
2. Nf3	**g6**
3. Bf4	**Bg7**
4. Nc3	**d6**
5. Qd2	**O-O**
6. h3	**a6**
7. Bh6	**b5!?**
8. Bxg7	**Kxg7**
9. e3	**Bb7**
10. Be2	**b4 (!)**
11. Nb1	**a5**
12. O-O	**c5 (!)**
13. Rd1	**Nbd7**
14. c4	**Qb6**
15. d5	**Rad8**
16. Qc2	**Bc8**
17. Nbd2	**e5!**

(diagram next column)



*Position after **17. ... e5***

18. dxe6 ?! ...

This seems wrong. White breaks up his center, loses space, and gives black a central (3 to 2 pawn) advantage. The f-file is also half-opened for black.

18. ...	**fxe6**
19. Ng5 !?	**Ne5**
20. Nde4	**Nxe4**
21. Qxe4 !?	**...**

White seems to be playing coffee-house chess, not caring for any positional factors.

21. ... h6!

A good move, seeking to wrest the initiative at the cost of disrupting my pawn structure.

22. f4	**hxg5**
23. fxe5	**d5**
24. Qg4	**Rf5**

Black has the initiative.

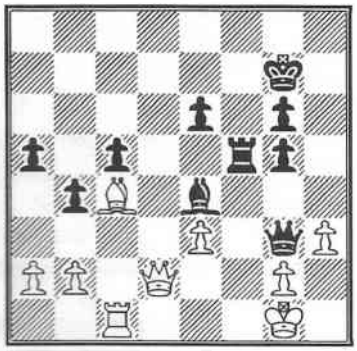
25. Bd3	**Rxe5**
26. Rf1	**Qd6!**

I avoid 26. ... Rxe3? 27. Qxg5 Rxd3 28. Rf6 and black will probably be mated.

27. Rf2	**dxc4**
28. Bxc4	**Qe7**
29. Qg3	**Rf5**
30. Rc2	**Qd6**
31. Qe1	**Qe5!**
32. Rac1	**Bb7**
33. Bb5	**Be4!**
34. Rd2 ?!	**...**

The only move was 34. Re2. If 34. Rxc5?, black could play 34. ... Qxc5 winning two rooks for the queen, or the superior 34. Qxb2 threatening mate on g2 among other things. 34. Rd2 ?! allows black's queen acess to g3.

34. ...	**Rxd2**
35. Qxd2	**Qg3**
36. Bc4?	**...**



*Position after **36. Bc4?***

White had to play 36. Rd1, after which black still has a large advantage according to Fritz 5.32. Can you find the winning move after 36. Bc4? Hint: It involves the themes of decoy/ remove the guard.

(continued next page)

36. ... Bxg2!

If **37. Qxg2, Qxe3+** with two variations: A) 38. Kh2 Rf2 39. Rc2 Rxg2+ and black wins either rook or bishop with a queen check on his next move; B) 38. Kh1 Qxc1+ 39. Kh2 Qxc4.

37. resigns

0 – 1

In round 2 I was somewhat fortunate. My game was not hopelessly lost after white's 34th move, but it was not an enviable position. My opponent was rather short of time to really exploit his advantage. (Rounds 1 and 2 were played at the Time Control of SD/75 for those, like me, who were on the two-day schedule.) I felt the opening went OK, especially since I had never played against it as black. (I knew it from the white side, so it was not that scary.) My FIDE performance rating for the first two rounds was something like 2640 ... not too bad, I guess.

30th Southern Congress Open – Atlanta, 4/17/99 SD/75 – Round 2

David Levin (2430) vs. A.J. Goldsby I (2200)

1. d4	**Nf6**
2. Nf3	**g6**
3. Nc3	**...**

Now black can play 3. ... d5 to stop 4. e4. But this cedes White the e5 square as an outpost for his pieces.

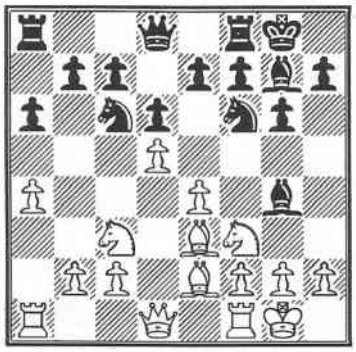
3. ...	**Bg7**
4. e4	**d6**

Now black has been "tricked" into a transposition into the Pirc .. a line I had nover played before in my life ... and against a master, too!

5. Be2	**O-O**
6. O-O	**a6**
7. a4	**...**

Stopping any Q-side expansion, as in the previous game.

7. ...	**Bg4**
8. Be3	**Nc6**
9. d5!?	**...**



Position after ***9. d5 !?***

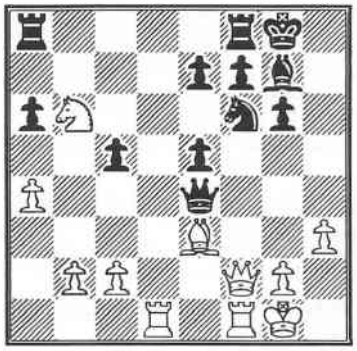
9. ...	**Bxf3**
10. Bxf3	**Na5**

The only way not to retreat and lose a tempo. Also black is aiming for a blockaded position that he hopes will not be favorable to the bishops.

11. Be2	**c5**
12. f4	**Nd7**
13. e5 !?	**dxe5**
14. f5	**Qc7**
15. Qe1!	**Nf6**
16. fxg6	**hxg6**
17. Qf2	**b6**
18. Bg5	**Nh7**
19. d6 ?!	**Qxd6!**
20. Rad1	**Qe6**
21. Be3	**Nc4 ?!**

Simply 21. ... Rad8 appears best.

22. Bxc4	**Qxc4**
23. Nd5	**Nf6**
24. Nxb6	**Qe4**
25. h3!	**...**



Position after ***23. h3!***

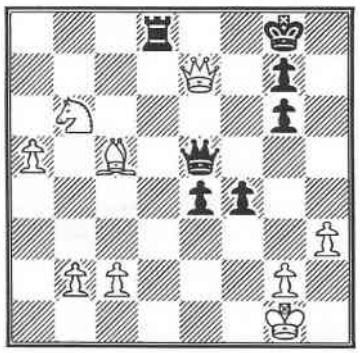
Black was counting on 25. Nxa8? Ng4 with a winning position. Now the game degenerates into chaos.

25. ...	**Rab8**
26. Bxc5	**Qb7**
27. a5	**Rbd8**
28. Qh4	**Rfe8**
29. Qb4	**Rxd1**
30. Rxd1	**Ne4**
31. Be3	**f5**
32. Qc4+	**Kh7**
33. Rd7	**Qb8**
34. Qxa6	**f4**

Here the Time Control made itself felt. My opponent had only about 7 minutes left. He proceeded to analyse for nearly 4 minutes, then looked at the clock and quickly made a move.

35. Qd3?	**Nf6**
36. Bc5	**e4!**
37. Qb5	**Nxd7**
38. Qxd7	**Rd8**
39. Qg4	**Qe5**

40. Qh4+	**Kg8**
41. Qxe7	**...**



*Position after **41. Qxe7***

41. ...	**Rd1+**
42. Kh2	**f3+**
43. Qxe5	**Bxe5+**
44. g3	**Rd2+**
45. Kg1	**Rxc2**
46. a6!?	**Rxc5**
47. a7	**Bd4+!**
48. Kh2	**Rc2+**
49. Kh1	**Rc1+**
50. Kh2	**Bg1+**
51. Kh1	**Bxb6+**
52. Kh2	**Bg1+**
53. Kh1	**Bxa7+**
54. resigns	

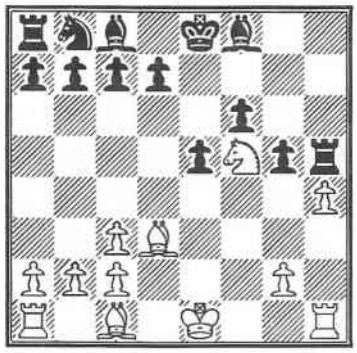
0 – 1

By round 3 I suspect all parties were getting a little punch-drunk. I trot out the Bishop's Opening and then transpose to the Boden-Kieseritsky Gambit, probably one of the hoariest lines around. I really don't get enough for my pawn, but I do get a passed pawn. Both sides play slowly and consume a lot of time but black plays somewhat blasé, not seeming to notice that his extra pawn does not mean all that much, given the ending he finds himself in. White manages to grind out his third win.

30th Southern Congress
Open – Atlanta, 4/17/99
40/100, SD/60 – Round 3

A.J. Goldsby I (2200)
Adam Cavaney (2175)

1. e4	**e5**
2. Bc4	**Nf6**
3. Nf3	**Nxe4**
4. Nc3	**Nxc3**
5. dxc3	**f6**
6. Nh4	**g6**
7. f4	**Qe7**
8. f5	**Qg7**
9. fxg6	**hxg6**
10. Qg4	**g5**
11. Nf5	**Qg6**
12. h4	**Qh5**
13. Qxh5+	**Rxh5**
14. Bd3?!	**...**



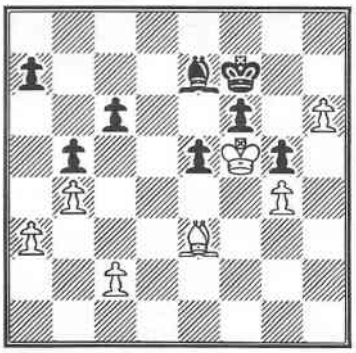
*Position after **14. Bd3 ?!***

Over-anticipation. Black was threatening ... d5 winning a piece. White now threatens 15. Ng7+ and 16. Bg6+ winning the exchange. Better was 14. g4 Rh8 15. Be3! and 16. h5 with a vastly superior version of the game.

14. ...	**Rh8**
15. c4	**Nc6**
16. Be3	**d6**
17. h5	**Be6**
18. b3	**O-O-O?**

Black spends several tempi trying to get his king back to the king-side in the endgame. It seems it would make sense just to play 18. ... Rd8 and save all that time.

19. Be4	**d5**
20. cxd5	**Bb4+**
21. Ke2	**Bxd5**
22. Bxd5	**Rxd5**
23. a3	**Bc3**
24. Rad1	**Rxd1**
25. Kxd1	**Bd4**
26. Bc1!	**Bc5**
27. b4	**Nd4**
28. Nxd4	**Bxd4**
29. Ke2	**Kd7**
30. g4	**Ke6**
31. Kf3	**c6**
32. Ke4	**b5**
33. Rh3!	**Rd8**
34. Rd3	**Bb6**
35. Rxd8	**Bxd8**
36. h6	**Kf7**
37. Kf5	**Be7**
38. Be3	**...**



*Position after **38. Be3***

38. ...	**h6**
39. Bb6	**...**

Black is in zugzwang.

39. ...	**Bf8**
40. Bd8	**Bxh6**
41. Bxf6	**e4**
42. Bd4	**e3**

43. Bxe3	**Bg7**
44. Bxg5	**Bb2**
45. Be3!	**Bxa3**
46. c3	**Bb2**
47. Bd4	**Bc1**
48. g5	**Bd2**
49. g6+	**Kg8**
50. Ke6	**Bg5**
51. Kd6	**Kf8**
52. Kxc6	**Bd8**
53. Kd7!	**...**

If 53. ... Bg5 or ... Bh4, then 54. Kc7! followed by Kb6 winning.

53. ... resigns

1 – 0

In round 4 I play the lowest-rated player of the tournament, who gives me my toughest game! I decide to avoid book and play a line adapted from the Ruy Lopez. I also try to avoid "known theory" in the hope that a Life-Master will have better instincts than a lower-rated player. It was difficult to play in this style, and I have to work harder at the board than I normally do. Patience plays a key role. This was positional chess, totally and completely. My opponent suprises me toward the end and sacrifices a piece to achieve a nearly impregnable fortress. I come up with a many-faceted plan to break down my opponent's apparently rock-solid position. In the second time control and running short of time, my opponent finally makes a mistake that allows me to penetrate with my king. After avoiding one last trap, the win is mine. But what a difficult game! Many strong players did not believe that I could win.

30th Southern Congress
Open – Atlanta, 4/17/99
40/100, SD/60 – Round 4

A.J. Goldsby I (2200)
vs. Charlie Durham (1975)

1. e4	**c5**
2. Nf3	**d6**
3. c3	**Nf6**
4. Be2	**Nc6**
5. d3	**...**

White plays very slowly, very similar to the way play develops in the Closed Ruy Lopez. I choose this method to avoid any favorite prepared lines.

5. ...	**g6**
6. O-O	**Bd7**

Not the best square for the bishop. Also the timing of this move is off.

7. h3	**Bg7**
8. Be3	**O-O**
9. Nbd2	**Qc7 ?!**

The queen is misplaced here as the course of play demonstrates. Black is justifying white's approach to the opening.

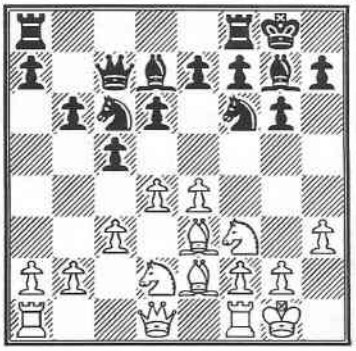
10. Rc1!	**b6**

This weakening of the light squares (especially c6) will eventually play a role in black's losing the game.

11. d4	**...**

(diagram next column)

11. ...	**e5**
12. Re1	**Rad8**
13. a3!	**Qb8**
14. b4	**cxd4**
15. cxd4	**d5 !?**



*Position after **11. d4***

It is slightly risky to open the game up here. But black would be definitely worse if he allowed d5. His pieces are not coordinated enough to fight for the Q-side, the open c-file and the outpost square c6.

16. dxe5	**Nxe5**

16. ... Nxe4 17. e6!

17. Nxe5	**Qxe5**
18. Nf3!	**Qb8**

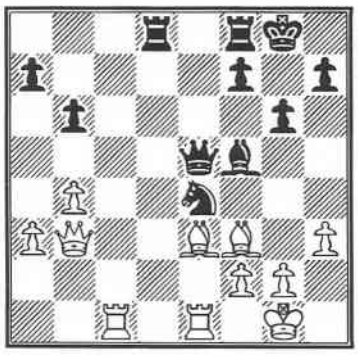
18. Qxe4? 19. Bd3 Qe7 20. Bxb6 +/-.

19. e5	**Ne4!**

A very gutsy move by my opponent.

20. Qxd5	**Bf5**
21. Qb3!	**Bxe5**
22. Nxe5	**Qxe5**
23. Bf3	**...**

White has the better game. Better pawn structure, more space, the open c-file, two bishops, etc. And black has to be concerned over the slightly precarious position of his N on e4. Plus black has a set of weakened dark-squares around his king that he must keep a close eye on.



*Position after **23. Bf3***

23. ...	**Rfe8**
24. Bg5	**Rd4!**
25. Be3	**Rdd8**
26. Qa4!	**...**

Probing black on both sides of the board.

26. ...	**Qb8**
27. b5	**Nc5 ?!**
28. Bxc5	**Rxe1+**
29. Rxe1	**bxc5**
30. Bc6!	**...**

So that 30. ... Bd7? 31. Bxd7 Rxd7 32. b6! wins. This bishop will now rule the board from its present post and dominate its counterpart.

30. ...	**Be6**
31. Qc2	**Qd6**
32. a4!	**Qd2 ?!**

Black, in severe time trouble, does not realise that the endgame is nearly hopeless.

33. Qxd2	**Rxd2**
34. a5	**...**

The pawns become a real threat. The threat is 35. Rb1 and a pawn will promote.

34. ...	**Rb2**
35. Ra1!	**...**

Now the threat is the sneaky 36. b6! axb6? 37. a6! sliding a button in to score a TD.

35. ...	**c4**
36. b6!	**a6**
37. Rc1!	**...**

Freezing the dangerous c-pawn. 37. ... Ra2? 38. Rb1 winning.

37. ...	**Kg7!?**
38. Bb7	**Rb3**
39. Bxa6	**c3**
40. b7	**Bd5**

At least black makes time control and will not lose on time.

41. Rxc3!	**Rb1+**
42. Kh2	**Bxb7**
43. Bd3!	**...**

Rook and pawn endings are notoriously drawish.

43. ...	**Rb2**
44. a6	**Bxa6 !?**

Black sacs a piece to set up a nearly fool-proof fortress. The possiblilty now exists of reaching the endgame of K+R+B vs. K+R and a hundred more moves to play!

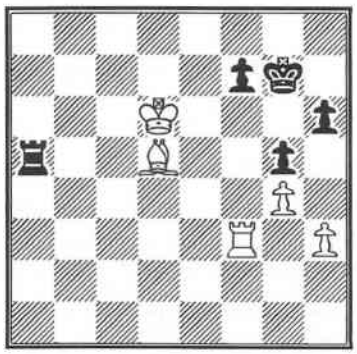
45. Bxa6	**Rxf2**
46. Rc7	**...**

White begins a multi-phase plan to win.

46. ...	**h6**
47. Bc4	**g5**
48. Bd5	**Rf5**
49. Bf3	**Rf6**
50. Kg3	**Rf4**
51. Kf2	**Kg6**
52. Ke3	**Rf6**
53. g4	**Kg7**
54. Be4	**Rf4**
55. Rc5	**...**

Threatening to play Rf5 and trap black's rook.

55. ...	**Rf6**
56. Rf5	**Ra6**
57. Rf3	**Ra7**
58. Bd5	**Re7+**
59. Kd4	**Ra7**
60. Kc5	**Ra5+**
61. Kd6	**...**



*Position after **61. Kd6***

61. ...	**Ra6+?**

Black should play simply 61. ... Ra7 to keep the WK cut off. It is then up to white to demonstrate a plan to improve his position. (Rf3-b3-b7). But it is not 100% clear that black is lost.

62. Ke7	**Ra7+**
63. Ke8	**f6**

Notice black may not check on a8.

64. Re3	**h5**
65. Re7+	**Rxe7+**
66. Kxe7	**hxg4**
67. hxg4	**Kg6**
68. Be4+	**Kg7**
69. Bf5	**Kh6**

A trap. 70. Kxf6?? stalemate!

70. Be6	**Kg7**
71. Bf7	**Kh7**
72. Kxf6	**Kh6**
73. Bd5	**Kh7**
74. Kxg5	**resigns**

1 – 0

In round five I played what could have been my most difficult game, at least from the aspect of having to endure an inferior position. (For a long time. Actually, it seemed like an eternity.) My opponent played the Smith-Morra Gambit. I was familiar with the basic ideas. About two years ago, I bought a couple of books on this opening, but not having had the chance to study them in depth, I did not feel confident enough to play the main lines. I declined the gambit and my opponent set up the Maroczy Bind. I do not have a lot of experience playing these positions, but it helped that I had been studying these lines with Dr. John Perciballi. (We study the Accelerated Fianchetto lines of the Dragon when we study together.)

I felt that I had come very close to losing, and that my opponent had enjoyed a huge advantage throughout most of the game. This was confirmed by the fact that when we input the moves into Fritz on Mike's laptop, Fritz showed White enjoyed a sizable advantage. (The green graph bars looked like, "Two huge, green waves crushing Black to pieces." This is what I told Mike.) After 20. Qe3, I thought seriously about offering my opponent a draw. The main reason I did not was that I thought my opponent might embarrass me by rejecting my offer!

30th Southern Congress
Open – Atlanta, 4/17/99
40/100, SD/60 – Round 5

Stephen Whiteman (2040)
vs. A.J. Goldsby I (2200)

1. e4	**c5**
2. d4	**cxd4**
3. c3 !?	**d3 !?**

Black declines the Smith-Morra gambit.

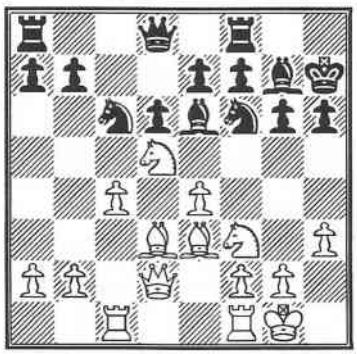
4. c4!	**...**

White sets up the Maroczy Bind.

4. ...	**Nf6**
5. Bxd3	**...**

Not 5. e5? Qa5+ winning a pawn.

5. ...	**g6**
6. Nf3	**Nc6**
7. O-O	**d6**
8. h3	**Bg7**
9. Nc3	**O-O**
10. Be3	**h6**
11. Rc1 +/=	**Be6**
12. Qd2	**Kh7**
13. Nd5	**...**



*Position after **13. Nd5***

White has a huge advantage in space and threatens 14. Nxf6+ winning a pawn or destroying black's pawn structure.

13. ...	**Nd7**
14. Bb1	**Rc8**
15. Nd4	**b6**

Now if 16. Nxe6 fxe6 17. Nf4 Rf6 and black has evicted the knight from d5 and gained some space and a half-open f-file.

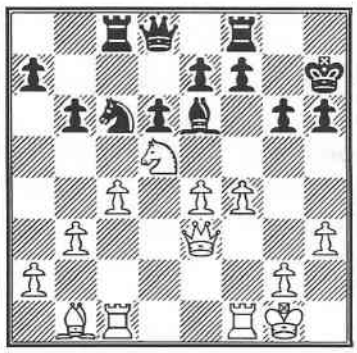
16. b3	**...**

Black is suffocating from a lack of space. So he exchanges two sets of minors to get a little breating room.

16. ...	**Nxd4**
17. Bxd4	**Bxd4**
18. Qxd4	**Ne5**
19. f4	**Nc6!**

Forget the tempo gained by hitting the queen. I wanted the knight on its best LONG-TERM square.

20. Qe3	**....**



*Position after **20. Qe3***

Here Fritz stated that white's advantage is 8/10 of a pawn.

20. ...	**Qd7**
21. Rfd1	**Kg7!!**

Black is planning to unravel his pieces with a deep plan that is new, at least to black. (You could give my next four moves an ex-

clam in parenthesis. But they are all part of the plan.)

22. Nc3 f6

This move is important because it stops e5 and allows my next move.

23. Nd5 Bg8
24. a3 e5
25. b4 Nd4

Black grabs his outpost.

26. Ba2 Bxd5

Then he eliminates white's knight.

27. exd5 ...

White had no choice. 27. cxd5? Rxc1 28. Rxc1 Rc8; black will swap rooks on the c-file and leave white with the bad bishop vs. good knight endgame.

27. ... Qf5!

This move is justified by the sequence 28. Bb1 Qxf4 29. Qxf4 and now not taking on f4 and dropping the black knight, but 29. Ne2+ and black wins a pawn.

28. Kh1 ...

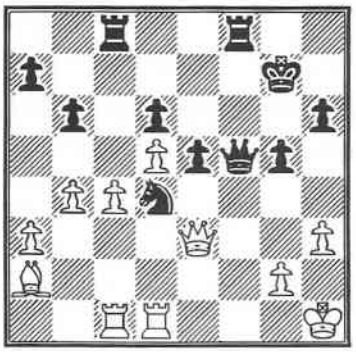
White avoids the tactic in the note for the last move.

28. ... g5!

Expanding in space on the K-side and opening the f-file.

29. fxe5 fxe5

(diagram next column)



*Position after **29. ... fxe5***

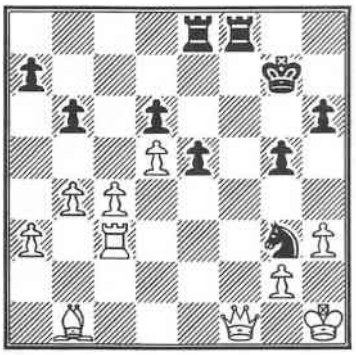
What a turn-around from the last diagram! Black's knight dominates the center of the board. White's bishop is partially bad, and is on the edge. Black controls the f-file. Fritz now states that black has the advantage.

30. Bb1 Qf4
31. Qd3 Nf5
32. Rc3 Rce8!

Black threatens to just walk his e-pawn in and win the game. 33. Rdc1 e4 34. Qd1 e3, etc.

33. Rf1? Qxf1+!

The most precise.



*Position after **34. ... Ng3+***

34. Qxf1 Ng3+

After 35. Rxg3 Rxf1+ 36. Kh2 Rxb1, black is up a whole rook

35. resigns

0 – 1

This ends my tournament report on the 30th Annual Southern Chess Congress Open. I had a really good time and I think I played some good chess. It's been a long time since I went 5-0 in a really strong tournament. I may have had fortune smile on me, but that's the way it goes sometimes. "The player that plays the best chess always finishes second to someone who was lucky". (Bobby Fischer to Mikhail Tal after Bled, 1961.) I am thankful to the Lord for allowing me to play chess and to have given me at least a little talent for the game. I also want to thank Mike Thorton of Pensacola. Without him this trip would not have been possible. He also helped me get a computer so that state magazine editors do not have to try to read my hand-written notes. I also am able to study chess on the computer (welcome to the 21st century!) Thanks also to the nice folks in Atlanta who were very kind and hospitable during our trip. Thanks for the tournament!!

Tim Bond Gives GM Goldin a Scare *by Bill Melvin*

10th Tallahassee Open
Tallahassee FL, 4/11/99
30/90; SD/60
White: Tim Bond
Black: Alexander Goldin

1. Nf3	**Nf6**

Tim loves this type of opening. It can transpose into just about anything. Tim has his work cut out for himself facing a strong well-known GrandMaster (GM).

2. g3	**g6**
3. Bg2	**Bg7**
4. d4	**O-O**
5. O-O	**d6**
6. c4	**Nbd7**

We now have a King's Indian Defense. Usually sharp and unclear according to theory.

7. Nc3	**e5**
8. e4	**ed**
9. Nd4	**Re8**
10. Qc2?	**...**

More usual is 10. h3. According to Nunn's Chess Openings, white can expect to eventually get a slight advantage.

10. ...	**a6?**

I feel kind of silly giving a "?" to a GM, but he did just miss 10. ... Ne4!. While complicated, black seems to have a real advantage after snatching the e-pawn. The game might continue 11. Ne4 Bd4 12. Bh6 and white has some pressure for the pawn. Nonetheless, this must be black's best continuation.

11. h3?	**Rb8?**

Neither player seems to have noticed 11. ... Ne4! with a healthy black edge.

12. Be3!	**...**

This prevents the Ne4 shot. White has a pleasant position now.

12. ...	**c5?!**

I'm not a GM, but this move seems to terminally weaken the d6 pawn. Try to find something nice to say about black's position. Black will have to play well to hold this together.

13. Nde2	**b5**
14. Rad1	**Qc7**
15. cb	**ab**
16. Nf4	**...**

This may be white's best. 16. Qd3 attacking both the b5 and d6 pawns was also tempting.

16. ...	**b4**
17. Ncd5	**Nxd5**
18. Nxd5	**Qa5**
19. b3	**Bb7**

White has kept the advantage. With all the minor pieces present, it is hard to keep everything under control.

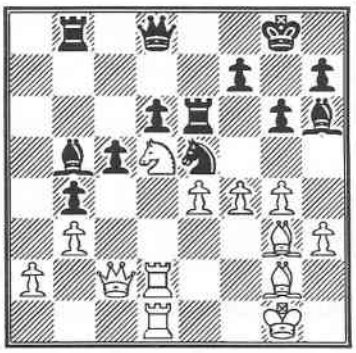
20. Bf4	**Ne5**
21. Ne3	**...**

I have a natural distrust for retreating moves like this one. Which square could possibly be better for the knight than d5?

21. ...	**Ba6**
22. Rfe1	**Re6**
23. Rd2	**Qc7**
24. Red1	**Bb5**
25. g4	**...**

This is another suspect move. Simply 25. Nd5 seems more natural.

25. ...	**Qe7**
26. Bg3	**Bh6**
27. Nd5	**Qd8**
28. f4	**...**



Position after ***28. f4***

Missing the wonderful move 28. g5!!. Play might continue 28. ... Qg5 29. Nc7 Qe7 [29. ... Rf6 30. Nb5 Rb5 31. Rd6 Rd6 32. Rd6 with white's dream position] 30. Ne6 Bd2 31. Qd2 Qe6 32. Qd6 Qd6 33. Rd6 Re8 with a great position for the two bishops.

28. ...	**Nc6**
29. Bf2	**Bg7**
30. e5	**Kh8**
31. g5	**...**

White appears to have his best position of the game after simply 31. ed. The c5 pawn falls right away and white would remain a pawn ahead.

31. ...	**de**
32. Bxc5	**Nd4**

ACF Tournament Calendar – mostly from http://www.cis.uab.edu/info/faculty/sloan/ACF		
Event	**Date and place**	**Contact person**
Montgomery CC Y2K G/29 Blast (HOD Event) (see bottom of page)	January 8 (reg. 9:30 – 10:00) Comfort Suites Hotel, 5924 Monticello Dr.	Caesar Lawrence
Millbrook Scholastic	January 15 (late entries 8:30-9:15 at site) Chapman Acad., 4711 Chapman Rd, Millbrook	Caesar Lawrence
Magic City Classic (see pp. 18-19)	January 22 – 24 (late reg. 8:30 – 9:30) Birmingham Sheraton Hotel	Rick_Aeria
Hoover Scholastic	February 5 (late reg. 8:30-9:30) South Shades Crest Elementary School, Hoover	Vasha Rosenblum
First Sunday Quads	February 6 (reg. 1:00 – 1:30) UAB Hill Student Center, Birmingham	Ken Sloan
28th Annual Queen of Hearts (see p. 17)	February (11),12-13 (late reg. 8:00-9:00 AM Sat) A.U.M. University Center	Rhodes Peele
Birmingham Blunders III (see facing page)	February 26 (reg. 7:30 – 9:00) Howard Johnsons, 275 Oxmoor Road, Bir.	Kirk Petty
Alabama State Scholastic Individual	March 11 (late reg. 8:00-8:45) Advent Episcopal Day School, Birmingham	Dale Robbins
Birmingham Blunders IV (see facing page)	March 25 (reg. 7:30 – 9:00) Howard Johnsons, 275 Oxmoor Road, Bir.	Kirk Petty
Alabama State Scholastic Team	April 8 (no on-site registration) Simmons Middle School, Hoover	Tom Young,
Birmingham Blunders V (see facing page)	April 22(reg. 7:30 – 9:00) Howard Johnsons, 275 Oxmoor Road, Bir.	Kirk Petty

Montgomery Chess Club Y2K G/29 Blast

Saturday, January 8, 2000 at Comfort Suites Hotel, Montgomery
5924 Monticello Drive, Montgomery (near I-85 exit 6)

7 round Swiss, USCF Quick Rated, on-site registration 9:30-10:00, EF $25
Rounds: *10:15, 11:30, 12:45, 2:00, 3:15, 4:30, 5:45*

Prizes based on 20 players:
1st, $80; 2nd, $60; A, $50; B, $50; C, $50, U1400, $50

Enter early (entry must be received by January 5) and save $5.
$20 check to Caesar Lawrence
Bring sets and clocks. No smoking or computers; wheelchair accessible.

Birmingham Blunders (monthly tournament series)

at Howard Johnsons, 275 Oxmoor Road, Birmingham AL (Homewood)

February 26, 2000. 3 round Swiss in 8 person sections, G/1. Prizes (based on 8 players in section): $60 first, $30 second. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00.

March 25, 2000. 4 round one-section Swiss, G/1. Prizes (based on 20 players): 1st, $80; 2nd, $40; 1st 1700-1999, $40; 1st 1500-1699, $40; 1st 1499 and below, $40. Must have 3 in rating group for prize to be awarded. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:00

April 22, 2000. 4 round Swisses, two sections: Pro: Open to 1600 and above; Amateur, Open to 1599 and below. Prizes in Open section (based on 12 players): 1st, $90; 2nd, $50; 1st B, $40. Prizes in Amateur section (based on 15 players): 1st, $90; 2nd, $50; 1st D/E, $40; 1st unrated, $30. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:00

All events: Entry fee for registration by mail is $20.00 to Kirk Petty
On-site registration from 7:30 to 9:00; entry fee $22.00 for Feb and March events, $25.00 for April.

33. Nxb4 Qa5

White has still managed to keep a slight pull.

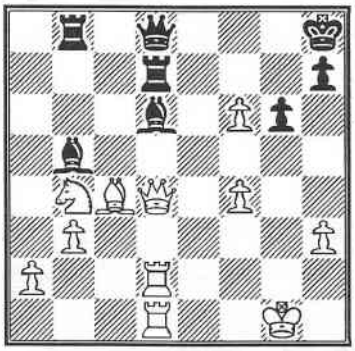
34. Bxd4 ed
35. Qc5 Qd8
36. Bd5 Re7

Tim has done an excellent job of outplaying the Grandmaster thus far in the game. 37. Rc1 is needed here to hold the c-file.

37. Bc4? Rc7

For the first time in the game, black has the advantage.

38. Qd5 Rd7
39. Qc5 Bf8
40. Qe5+ f6
41. gf Bd6
42. Qxd4 ...



Position after ***42. Qxd4***

The queen sacrifice 42. Bb5 was worth considering. Black probably still keeps the advantage after 42. ... Be5 43. Nc6 Qf6 44. Nb8 Bf4 45. Nd7 Be3 with a winning attack.

42. ... Bxb4
43. Bxb5? ...

I'm told that Tim wrote the strong 43. Qe5 down on his scoresheet. The threat of f7 (mate) is hard to meet. Play might continue 43. ... Qb6 44. Rd4 Bf8 45. Bb5 Rd4 46. Rd4 Qb5 with an unclear position.

43. ... Rxd4
44. Rxd4 Bc5
45. resigns

0 – 1

A heroic effort by a strong Alabama chess player. Tim held hiw own with the GM for almost the entire game.

1999 Alabama State Chess Championship Open Section Birmingham, September 4 6										
#	Player	pre rtg	post rtg	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
1	Stephen Muhammad (GA)	2418	2416	D8	W10	W6	D5	W3	W4	5.0
2	Matthew Puckett	2195	2185	L10	W12	W11	D3	W6	D5	4.0
3	Andy Reeder	2130	2153	W12	W7	D5	D2	L1	W9	4.0
4	Richard Frye (FL)	2091	2118	half bye	W15	D7	W10	W5	L1	4.0
5	Bill Melvin	2270	2258	W13	W14	D3	D1	L4	D2	3.5
6	Alan Kobernat (CA)	2115	2120	D15	W8	L1	W7	L2	W13	3.5
7	A.J. Goldsby (FL)	2200	2200	W9	L3	D4	L6	W15	D8	3.0
8	Ulric Aeria	2008	2016	D1	L6	half bye	W15	D10	D7	3.0
9	Raymond Quillian (GA)	1879	1877	L7	W13	L10	W12	W11	L3	3.0
10	John Morcos	1831	1866	W2	L1	W9	L4	D8	D11	3.0
11	Richard Pugh	1561	1590	L14	full bye	L2	W13	L9	D10	2.5
12	Mark Stribling	1660	1661	L3	L2	full bye	L9	L13	W15	2.0
13	Rhodes Peele	1845	1800	L5	L9	D15	L11	W12	L6	1.5
14	Ben Sides	2053	2048	W11	L5	—	—	—	—	1.0
15	Kenneth Sloan	1760	1742	D6	L4	D13	L8	L7	L12	1.0

1999 Alabama State Chess Championship Premier Section Birmingham, September 4 6										
#	Player	pre rtg	post rtg	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
1	Mark Liatti	1954	1980	W20	W19	D8	D6	W12	D2	4.5
2	Robert Pruitt	1941	1984	W13	W18	half bye	W8	D6	D1	4.5
3	Tim Bond	1918	1932	W23	L7	W15	W19	W13	D6	4.5
4	Jere Roland	1900	1921	D10	W17	L12	W7	W11	W8	4.5
5	Kirk Petty	1949	1926	L9	L10	W20	W22	W19	W13	4.0
6	Nuwan Suriyagoda	1947	1962	W21	D12	W7	D1	D2	D3	4.0

7	Scott Varagona	1730	1806	W14	W3	L6	L4	W18	W12	4.0
8	Willie Calhoun	1977	1968	W15	W9	D1	L2	W14	L4	3.5
9	Michael Thornton (FL)	1735	1765	W5	L8	L18	W21	D15	forf win	3.5
10	Giles D'Souza	1686	1737	D4	W5	L14	L11	W22	W15	3.5
11	Ray Downs	1958	1903	L19	L15	W17	W10	L4	W20	3.0
12	Caesar Lawrence	1867	1861	W22	D6	W4	D14	L1	L7	3.0
13	Uwe Frischmuth (MS)	1859	1847	L2	W23	W16	W18	L3	L5	3.0
14	Charles Smith	1944	1914	L7	W20	W10	D12	L8	—	2.5
15	Roger McIntyre	1760	1751	L8	W11	L3	W16	D9	L10	2.5
16	Brian Brown	1406	1416	L18	full bye	L13	L15	D17	W22	2.5
17	Kevin Crisler	1359	1382	full bye	L4	L11	L20	D16	W19	2.5
18	Bijan Khalegi	1877	1837	W16	L2	W9	L13	L7	—	2.0
19	Ross Smith	1735	1730	W11	L1	W21	L3	L5	L17	2.0
20	Chris Lasky	1689	1670	L1	L14	L5	W17	full bye	L11	2.0
21	Michael Lawson	1866	1814	L6	W22	L19	L9	—	—	2.0
22	Gerald Wheeler	1519	1500	L12	L21	full bye	L5	L10	L16	1.0
23	Roy Stanton	1655	1641	L3	L13	—	—	—	—	0.0

1999 Alabama State Chess Championship – Challenger Section – Birmingham, September 4 – 6

#	Player	pre rtg	post rtg	1	2	3	4	5	6	Score
1	Josh Wakefield	1513	1585	W26	W7	D3	W5	W13	W4	5.5
2	Orrin Hudson	1658	1672	L17	W31	W19	W12	W14	W7	5.0
3	Robert Bashinsky	1530	1554	W22	W6	D1	W14	L4	W10	4.5
4	John Bennett	1491	1516	half bye	W25	W9	W24	W3	L1	4.5
5	Ryan Willis	1449	1446	W27	W28	D20	L1	W24	D6	4.0
6	Robert Rieves	1269	1321	W8	L3	D18	W25	W9	D5	4.0

7	Alford Brown	——	1617/6	W10	L1	W22	W30	W20	L2	4.0
8	Bobby Chapuis (MS)	1566	1530	L6	L12	W26	D17	W23	W13	3.5
9	Edward Lamboy (GA)	1446	1426	D25	W18	L4	W23	L6	W14	3.5
10	Donny Davis	1416/3	1491/9	L7	W32	W11	D20	W15	L3	3.5
11	Keith Artman	1298	1341	W29	L13	L10	W27	D12	W21	3.5
12	Donald Wade	1247/5	1425/11	L14	W8	W21	L2	D11	W20	3.5
13	Valerie Hodgson	1577	1547	W32	W11	L14	W15	L1	L8	3.0
14	Mark Heavlin (NC)	1525	1515	W12	W17	W13	L3	L2	L9	3.0
15	Mohammad Abdel-Ghany	1447	1415	L24	W26	W17	L13	L10	W27	3.0
16	Richard Ellis	1411	1400	L19	L23	L27	W31	forf win	W24	3.0
17	Jim Griffin	1248	1296	W2	L14	L15	D8	W29	D18	3.0
18	Greg Benke	1152	1193	half bye	L9	D6	D21	W30	D17	3.0
19	Robert Adams	——	1535/5	W16	D30	L2	D29	W22	——	3.0
20	Jafar Daskar	1538	1491	W31	D24	D5	D10	L7	L12	2.5
21	Ryan Crane	1461	1386	L28	W27	L12	D18	W25	L11	2.5
22	Fred Wood	1268	1286	L3	W29	L7	W28	L19	half bye	2.5
23	Brennan Young	1223	1254	L30	W16	half bye	L9	L8	W29	2.5
24	Robert Ljubas	1147/8	1253/14	W15	D20	W30	L4	L5	L16	2.5
25	Miles Melvin	993	1046	D9	L4	W28	L6	L21	W30	2.5
26	Riley Lane (GA)	1202	1174	L1	L15	L8	full bye	L27	W31	2.0
27	Stephen Webb	976	1019	L5	L21	W16	L11	W26	L15	2.0
28	Theodis King	——	1093/4	W21	L5	L25	L22	forf win	——	2.0
29	Lamar Causey	1502	1404	L11	L22	W31	D19	L17	L23	1.5
30	Donald Yessick	1436	1400	W23	D19	L24	L7	L18	L25	1.5
31	John Moore	1096	1073	L20	L2	L29	L16	full bye	L26	1.0
32	James Brown	1360	1342	L13	L10	——	——	——	——	0.0

28TH ANNUAL QUEEN OF HEARTS
FEBRUARY (11), 12-13, 2000
AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY

PRIZES (BASED ON 45 ENTRIES)

OPEN SECTION (OPEN TO ALL)

1ST,	$300
2ND,	$125
TOP EXPERT,	$100
2ND EXPERT,	$50
TOP A,	$100
2ND A,	$50
TOP U1800,	$100
2ND U1800	$50

RESERVE SECTION (UNDER 1600)

1ST,	$150
2ND,	$75
TOP D,	$75
TOP E,	$75
TOP U1000,	$50
TOP UNRATED	$50

SPECIAL EVENT FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 11

AT 8:00, FORMER U.S. COCHAMPION DR. STUART RACHELS WILL GIVE A PUBLIC SIMULTANEOUS CHESS EXHIBITION. PLAYING IN THIS EVENT IS FREE TO THOSE WHO HAVE PREREGISTERED BY FEB. 5. OTHERS MAY PLAY FOR AN ENTRY FEE OF $10.

TOURNAMENT RULES

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE USCF MEMBERS, AND ALL RESIDENTS OF ALABAMA MUST BE ACF MEMBERS. BOTH SECTIONS ARE FIVE-ROUND SWISS STYLE TOURNAMENTS. TIME CONTROL IS 35/90 FOLLOWED BY SD/30. PLAYERS MAY PREREGISTER BY FEB. 5 BY MAILING THEIR $40 ENTRY TO TD RICH BELLEZZA

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MONTGOMERY CHESS CLUB AND GIVE DESIRED SECTION AND USCF ID # ON MEMO LINE OF CHECK. ON-SITE REGISTRATION: SAT. 8:00 – 9:00 AM (ALSO $40). ROUND TIMES: SATURDAY, 9:30, 2:30, 7:30; SUNDAY, 9:30, 2:30. ACF BUSINESS MEETING: 7:30 – 9:00 AM SUNDAY. A "HEART OF DIXIE TOUR" EVENT.

The Birmingham Chess Club Presents ...

1st Magic City Classic

January 22-23, 2000 A.D. at the Sheraton Birmingham Hotel

$2,900 Prize Fund* - 20 Grand Prix Points

* Unconditionally guaranteed! Increased from the USCF Tournament Life announcement.

A "Heart of Dixie" Event!

OPEN SECTION: **1st, trophy + $500; 2nd, $300; 3rd, $200, Top U2200, $150.** Entry fee: $55 (if received by 1/14/2000), $65 after 1/14/2000. GM's and IM's get free entry! No prize deductions!

PREMIER SECTION: (Under 2000) **1st, trophy + $300; 2nd, $200; 3rd, $100, Top U1800, $150.** Entry fee: $50 (if received by 1/14/2000), $60 after 1/14/2000.

CHALLENGER'S SECTION: (Under 1600) **1st, trophy + $300; 2nd, $200, 3rd, $100, Top U1400, $150, Top U1200, $150, Top Unrated, $100.** Six **Scholastics** trophies! Entry fee: $45 (if received by 1/14/2000), $55 after 1/14/2000. **Special Scholastics Entry Fee (eligible for Trophy Prizes only) : $25** (if received by 1/14/2000), **$35** (after 1/14/2000).

FORMAT: For all three sections, a five round Swiss system tournament, USCF membership required, USCF rated. Time control: **30 moves in one hour; then sudden death in one hour.** One half-point bye permitted if TD is notified before pairing the round. Wheelchair access, no smoking, no computers.

SCHEDULE: **Saturday, January 22.** Late registration: 8:30 - 9:30 AM. **Round 1: 10:00 AM** - 2:00 PM. **Round 2: 3:00 PM** - 7:00 PM. **Round 3: 8:00 PM** - 12:00 midnight.

Sunday, January 23. Round 4: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. **Round 5: 2:00 PM** - 6:00 PM. Awards Ceremony: 6:15 PM.

Tournament Director: Rich Bellezza

Special Side Events on Friday

G/5 Alabama State Championship
6:30 PM, Friday, January 21
5 round Swiss, $10 entry

Prizes based on 35 entries:
1st, $100; 2nd, $60; 3rd, $40;
Top U1800, $30; Top U 1600, $30;
Top U1400, $30; Top U1200, $30.

Simultaneous Exhibition
Life Master **Kyle Therrell**
8:00 PM, Friday, January 21
Only $15 a board

5-time (count 'em) Alabama State Champion. Play the Legend! Come join us for a veritable Chess Festival of fun and excitement!

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1st MAGIC CITY CHESS CLASSIC ENTRY FORM

Name of Participant (First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name)	**USCF Membership Identification Number**	USCF Expiration Date
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Please Circle Section that you will be playing in OPEN PREMIERE CHALLENGER	If Entering as a scholastic Player, list School and Grade	USCF Rating
Entry Fee (Please indicate appropriate) On or before 1/14/2000 OPEN $55 Premiere $50 Challenger $45 Scholastic $25 Entry fee after 1/14/2000 OPEN $65 Premiere $60 Challenger $55 Scholastic $35 Quick Chess State Championship $10 TOTAL EF $_____ ACF Member (Y/N)___ BYE Request Rd #_____ 5th Rd Byes irrevocable	**Mikhail Tal Commemorative Coin** I would like to purchase _____ coin(s) @$15 each Total _____ (Plus include 8% sales tax)	**MAIL ENTRIES TO:** **Birmingham Chess Club** **C/o Rick Aeria**

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